

ent to give us all the work that can be done for several years to come.

It is of course out of the question to publish all or any of the works suggested in elaborately bound books, but they could be published in pamphlet form, but preliminary to that I believe it would be well to publish through the EVANGELIST whatever is written in the interest of our church. To my mind that is an "ideal literature for the Brethren church" which treats directly on the doctrine, principles, government, and history of the church in a form that is easily accessible to the whole church at the smallest possible cost. (these suggestions do of course not apply to a hymnal) and besides it could not help but add greatly to the interest and success of the EVANGELIST to have a constant flow of those weightier matters running through it.

The method suggested may be objected to on the ground that it would detract from a book to have its contents first published in a public journal, that would only hold good for a few years, every subject mentioned in this letter has been discussed, and re-discussed throughout the history of the German Baptist and Brethren churches, and as far as some of our older members are concerned we would need no more of it, but we must bear in mind that we are constantly coming in contact with strangers, and receiving new members into the church who need, and are desirous of learning the truth that we eagerly sought years ago; thus for this year we have received over one thousand converts into the church, they need the light that others needed before them, in another year we will have another thousand or more, they will need light and knowledge, and so on through the rolling years.

The disintegration of churches and other organizations is largely attributable to them not constantly disseminating the principles upon which they were founded, a principle strong enough to establish an organization is enough to maintain it if it is properly adhered to, and expounded. At the first Conference of the Brethren church, the principles of Mack, or the founders of the church were re-affirmed, if those principles had been constantly incul-

cated there would have been no occasion for their reaffirmation, and the world would have been spared the sad spectacle of a divided church. Let us profit by the experience of the past and not do as our fathers did, let tradition take the place of truth; *constant agitation keeps the stream pure.*

Kennet Square, Pa.

SPECIAL NUMBER.

BY H. M. LICHTY.

We are living in a progressive age. Much as we may be criticised as Americans for our very aggressive life, our pushing nervous, excitable natures. The hustle and bustle in which we move there is no hope or even prospect that we will change our habits. Living in such an age and among such a people the only way to keep from falling behind is to notice the current in which you are moving and see whether you are actually progressing or simply drifting or possibly even not keeping up with the surroundings.

I have taken it as a mark of progress that our editor is getting out "special numbers of the EVANGELIST." Although these numbers have not come up to what was expected, good reasons have been given and we may reasonably expect that experience in this as in all else will bring greater proficiency. The last special number of the Evangelist on *Christian healing* deserves a wide circulation. It is to be regretted that Dr. Pearson's article on this subject was not reproduced or that more of the brethren who believe as he does did not express themselves. This is a great question and an issue of the EVANGELIST that would intelligently produce both sides and all phases would be considered a valuable paper. It would be such a paper that all persons who think on the question would want to see. Not only would they be anxious to read all that is written but they would preserve such an issue of the Evangelist. It would be filed away for future reference. This is what I have done with mine and this has suggested that we need more such special numbers. Ordinary numbers are good enough and so are ordinary days. We must aim to be patriotic

every day of the year and yet it is a great stimulant to our patriotism to have a 4th of July. "Pray without ceasing" and yet we should have our hours, and days and weeks of prayer. Again; this is recognized in business.

It makes no difference how great a business the great house of Siegle, and Cooper of Chicago do every day, they have their special days, their special sales in which the great every day volume of business is swelled to immense proportions. So the railroads announce their special days and special trains and the great throng of humanity that is frequently moved on such occasions testifies to the success of such business undertaking. So also are the great periodicals of to day not satisfied with their thousands and millions of circulation daily and weekly and monthly but *special* numbers are issued in which *special* subjects are treated by the *special* great writers of the day. There are many vital questions to the Brethren church. We are in our infancy and thus have every thing to learn. It seems as a people we are only learning the alphabet which shall help us to spell out the great future that lies before us and our posterity. I argue then that we should have *special* numbers of the Evangelist. One a month would not be too many provided the proper interest could be aroused in the matter but one a year would be better than more unless they were really *special* numbers and contains, special merit.

I am told that the saying every one else knows better how to run your business than you do yourself is not exceptional with the editor so it may become us not to be ready to tell our editor how to do. If I am too free to suggest pardon, when I say, it appears to me that special numbers of the Evangelist should be announced at least several weeks ahead the names of all the contributors should be given. These facts together with the subjects to be treated should be known by all and every agent of the Evangelist should receive special notice of such special issues and be urged to make an effort to increase the circulation through this medium. A great many of our ablest men seldom write for the paper. They should feel it obligatory to respond to calls on such special work as herein suggested.

Wray, Colo.